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Abdullah-Mahathir

MAHATHIR'S "A NEW DEAL FOR ASIA" BOOK LAUNCHED

PETALING JAYA, May 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's latest book, "A New Deal For Asia", was launched at a five star hotel here today by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah, in his speech, said that the book would give a "sense of direction" to Asia at a time where the region was undergoing tremendous challenges.

Comparing Dr Mahathir's book to Franklin D.Roosevelt's "New Deal" of the 1930s, Abdullah said: "Asia must seize the opportunity and be willing to be bold and brave and make that commitment.

"In this respect, it is worth for all of us to emulate the prime minister's resolve and firm commitment to change Asia. The time has come for all of us to stand with the prime minister and take that first step which would surely lead to a giant step ahead for Asia and the world."

In the book, Dr Mahathir makes known his dismay at rogue currency traders who wreaked havoc on Asian economies in 1997 and 1998.

It also provides an insight into one of the world's leading statesmen and great thinkers, commenting on various contemporary issues with relative ease.

In penning his thoughts in the book, the prime minister said Asia, which has been devastated by the financial crisis, must be rebuilt on an even more solid foundations than before.

"We must move forward tirelessly in our efforts to restore not only the values of our markets, but also the pride and self-confidence of our peoples," Dr Mahathir said.

In a brief review, secretary-general of the United Nations Association of Malaysia Dr Ian Chia said the book is "a thought provoking, encouraging and inspiring optimistic foresight of the coming millennium."

"Dr Mahathir's book is refreshing and has sparked new hopes for a troubled Asia, and a uncertain world. In China and Japan, his name is spoken with respect and reverence," said Chia, who is also vice-president of the Malaysian Institute of Directors.

Published by Pelanduk Publications Snd Berhad, the softcover 155-page edition is priced at RM25 a copy.

Its managing director Datuk Ng Tieh Chuan said 10,000 copies have been printed and another 18,000 copies in Japanese would be launched in Japan next month.

"The book will also be translated in Bahasa Malaysia," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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